I2MTMCFP UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK 2 3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 4 17 CR 463 (LAK) V. 5 DENVER McFADDEN, 6 Defendant. -----x 7 8 New York, N.Y. February 22, 2018 9 10:35 a.m. 10 Before: 11 HON. JAMES L. COTT, 12 Magistrate Judge 13 14 APPEARANCES GEOFFREY S. BERMAN 15 Interim United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York 16 TARA LA MORTE 17 Assistant United States Attorney FEDERAL DEFENDERS OF NEW YORK 18 Attorneys for Defendant 19 BY: SARAH BAUMGARTEL 20 21 22 23 24 25

1 (In open court, case called) MS. LA MORTE: Good morning, your Honor, Tara La Morte 2 3 for the government. 4 THE COURT: Good morning, Ms. La Morte. 5 MS. BAUMGARTEL: Good morning, Sarah Baumgartel, Federal Defenders, on behalf of Mr. McFadden. 6 7 THE COURT: Good morning, Ms. Baumgartel. Good morning, Mr. McFadden. 8 9 THE DEFENDANT: Good morning. 10 THE COURT: Please be seated. Mr. McFadden, I have before me a form called a Consent 11 12 to Proceed before a United States Magistrate Judge on a Felony 13 Plea Allocution that you signed. What the form says is that 14 knowing that you have the right to have your plea taken by a 15 United States district judge, you're agreeing to have your plea taken here in magistrate's court by a United States magistrate 16 17 judge. Is that correct? 18 THE DEFENDANT: That's correct. THE COURT: And before you signed the form, did 19 20 Ms. Baumgartel explain this to you? 21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, she did. 22 THE COURT: I will sign the consent form and we shall 23 proceed. 24 Now Mr. McFadden, the purpose of this proceeding today 25 is to make sure that you understand your rights, to decide

whether you're pleading guilty of your own free will, and to make sure you're pleading guilty because you are guilty and not for some other reason. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I understand that.

THE COURT: If at any time you don't understand any of the questions that I'm going to be asking you during this proceeding today, or if you wish to consult with

Ms. Baumgartel, please let me know, because it is important that you understand every question before you answer. Okay?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Before I take your plea, as I said, I'm going to be asking you a series of questions, and I therefore need to place you under oath. So would you please raise your right hand.

(Defendant sworn)

THE COURT: Do you understand, Mr. McFadden, that any statements that you make here today under oath may be used against you in a prosecution for perjury or for making false statements if you do not tell the truth?

THE DEFENDANT: I do, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. I have in front of me a waiver of indictment. Did you sign this waiver of indictment?

THE DEFENDANT: I did.

THE COURT: Before you signed it, did you discuss it with Ms. Baumgartel?

1	THE DEFENDANT: I did, your Honor.
2	THE COURT: Do you understand what you are doing by
3	signing this waiver?
4	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor.
5	THE COURT: Do you understand that you are under no
6	obligation to waive indictment?
7	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I understand, your Honor.
8	THE COURT: Do you understand if you do not waive
9	indictment, if the government wants to prosecute you, they have
10	to present these charges to a grand jury which may or may not
11	indict you on these charges?
12	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I understand, your Honor.
13	THE COURT: Do you realize that by signing this waiver
14	of indictment you have given up your right to have this case
15	presented to a grand jury?
16	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
17	THE COURT: Do you understand what a grand jury is?
18	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.
19	THE COURT: Have you seen a copy of the superseding
20	information?
21	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have it in front of me.
22	THE COURT: And you have seen it?
23	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
24	THE COURT: Do you waive its public reading, meaning
25	that I won't need to read it to you here?

1	THE DEFENDANT: Oh, yes, I waive the public reading.
2	THE COURT: How do you wish to plead to the
3	superseding information, guilty or not guilty?
4	THE DEFENDANT: Guilty, your Honor.
5	THE COURT: Could you tell the Court your full name.
6	THE DEFENDANT: Denver McFadden.
7	THE COURT: How old are you?
8	THE DEFENDANT: I'm 68 years old.
9	THE COURT: Are you a citizen of the United States?
10	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I am.
11	THE COURT: Are you able to read and write English?
12	THE DEFENDANT: I am.
13	THE COURT: How far did you go to school?
14	THE DEFENDANT: Post graduate.
15	THE COURT: Are you now or have you recently been
16	under the care of a doctor or psychiatrist for any reason?
17	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have been.
18	THE COURT: What condition or conditions you have been
19	treated for?
20	THE DEFENDANT: Major depression and anxiety
21	disorders.
22	THE COURT: And have you recently been treated for any
23	addiction to narcotic drugs?
24	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. I have had a
25	condition in my side with my back and my leg for years, and I

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have been treated with opiates. And my doctor is making every attempt to get me off of those, and I'm down to very little at this point. THE COURT: And you said you had also been treated for mental illness, is that correct? THE DEFENDANT: That's correct. THE COURT: Are you on medication as we sit here today? THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I am. THE COURT: Does the medication that you're under or the conditions you're being treated for have any impact on your ability to understand or make decisions or judgments? THE DEFENDANT: No, they do not. THE COURT: All right. Are you under the influence of a mind-altering drug or any alcohol drink as you sit here

today?

THE DEFENDANT: Absolutely not, your Honor.

THE COURT: Have you been able to understand everything that I have said to you so far?

THE DEFENDANT: I have, your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you feel all right today?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: I assume there is no competence question here, but I'm just exploring this as much as I think I need to.

Ms. Baumgartel, any concerns on your end?

MS. BAUMGARTEL: Your Honor, I have no doubt of Mr. McFadden's competency.

THE COURT: Ms. La Morte, does the government?

MS. LA MORTE: No.

THE COURT: Are there any additional questions that either counsel wishes the Court to ask in regards to what I'll call the competency line of questions?

MS. BAUMGARTEL: No, your Honor.

MS. LA MORTE: No, your Honor. I would just note it was very recently that Mr. McFadden was hospitalized in connection with his mental illness. I don't know if there are additional probative questions that should be asked, but that was within the last week or so he had expressed suicidal ideation and was taken to the hospital. So I just do want to make sure that he confirms that he feels well enough today, in light of that, to proceed.

THE COURT: Mr. McFadden, you are here today because you want to enter a plea to the charges in the superseding information?

THE DEFENDANT: I do. And I was hospitalized for one evening on the advice of my psychiatrist sending me there, but I am not suicidal, I don't have suicidal ideations, and I am very capable of making decisions.

THE COURT: All right. Anything further?

MS. LA MORTE: Nothing further. That's sufficient,

pleading guilty?

1	your Honor.
2	THE COURT: I am confident in the allocutions we have
3	had so far that Mr. McFadden is clear headed and competent to
4	proceed on the basis of all the answers he has given me to my
5	questions.
6	So Mr. McFadden, you said you have seen the
7	superseding information, is that correct? Have you read it?
8	THE DEFENDANT: I have read it, and I have seen it,
9	yes.
10	THE COURT: And you understand what it says that you
11	did?
12	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.
13	THE COURT: Have you had a chance to discuss the
14	charges in the superseding information and how you wish to
15	plead with Ms. Baumgartel?
16	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have, numerous times.
17	THE COURT: Are you satisfied with her representation
18	of you?
19	THE DEFENDANT: I'm very satisfied with her
20	representation of me.
21	THE COURT: Have you had a full opportunity to discuss
22	the case with her?
23	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have.
24	THE COURT: Has she told you the consequences of

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1 THE DEFENDANT: She has very clearly. THE COURT: You're ready to enter a plea at this time? 2 3 THE DEFENDANT: I am. 4 THE COURT: Let me review with you both of the counts 5 in the superseding information and the penalties that are associated with each of those counts. 6 7 Count One charges you with travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct in violation of federal law, 8 9 and carries a maximum term of imprisonment of 30 years, a 10 maximum term of supervised release of life, a mandatory minimum 11 term of supervised release of five years, a maximum fine of 12 \$250,000, and a \$100 mandatory special assessment. 13 Do you understand the charge in Count One and the 14 penalties that are associated with that charge? 15 THE DEFENDANT: I do, your Honor. THE COURT: How do you wish to plead to Count One of 16 17 the superseding information, guilty or not guilty? 18 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty, your Honor. 19 THE COURT: Count Two charges with you with receipt of

THE COURT: Count Two charges with you with receipt of child pornography in violation of federal law, and carries a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years, a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years, a maximum term of supervised release of life, a mandatory minimum term of supervised release of five years, a maximum fine of \$250,000, and a \$100 mandatory special assessment.

1	Do you understand the charge in Count Two and the
2	penalties that are associated with that charge?
3	THE DEFENDANT: I do, your Honor.
4	THE COURT: How do you wish to plead to Count Two of
5	the superseding information, guilty or not guilty?
6	THE DEFENDANT: Guilty, your Honor.
7	THE COURT: Do you understand, Mr. McFadden, that the
8	total maximum term of imprisonment on Counts One and Two is 50
9	years with a mandatory minimum term of five years?
10	THE DEFENDANT: I do, your Honor.
11	THE COURT: Do you understand that the Court could
12	order you to pay restitution to any victims?
13	THE DEFENDANT: I do, your Honor.
14	THE COURT: And do you understand although I'm not
15	sure it's applicable here, but do you understand that the Court
16	could order you to forfeit certain property to the government?
17	THE DEFENDANT: I do, your Honor.
18	THE COURT: Is there any forfeiture issue in this
19	case?
20	MS. LA MORTE: No, your Honor, there's not.
21	THE COURT: Do you also understand, Mr. McFadden, that
22	if as part of your sentence you're placed on a term of
23	supervised release and then you violated any of the conditions
24	of that release, you could face an additional term of
25	imprisonment?

THE DEFENDANT: I understand, your Honor.

THE COURT: And do you understand -- I know you said you're a United States citizen, but if it were for some reason determined you were not a United States citizen, your guilty plea could result in your being removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

THE COURT: Do you understand that you're bound by your guilty plea regardless of any immigration consequences of your plea and regardless of any advice that you received from your counsel or anyone else regarding those consequences?

THE DEFENDANT: I do understand, your Honor.

THE COURT: Have you specifically discussed the potential immigration consequences of your plea?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, with my attorney.

THE COURT: Okay.

THE DEFENDANT: At length.

THE COURT: All right. Now Mr. McFadden, at this time
I want to review with you certain constitutional rights that
you have but that you would be giving up by entering a guilty
plea here today. Do you understand, first of all, that you
have a right to plead not guilty to the charges in the
superseding information and a right to a speedy and public jury
trial if you wish?

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THE DEFENDANT: I understand. 1 2 THE COURT: And do you understand that if you were to 3 plead not quilty and go to trial, you would be presumed 4 innocent, and the burden would be on the government to prove 5 your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt? 6 THE DEFENDANT: I understand. 7 THE COURT: Do you understand that you're entitled to be represented by an attorney at all stages of the proceedings, 8 9 at trial and at every other stage, and if you cannot afford to 10 hire or retain an attorney, the Court would provide an attorney 11 to you for free? 12 THE DEFENDANT: I do understand. 13 THE COURT: Do you understand that if there were a 14 trial in your case, you would be entitled to confront and 15 cross-examine any witnesses called by the government to testify 16 against you? 17 THE DEFENDANT: I understand that. 18 THE COURT: And do you understand you would be 19 entitled to testify on your own behalf if there were a trial? 20 THE DEFENDANT: I understand. 21 THE COURT: Do you understand you could call witnesses and present evidence? 22 23 THE DEFENDANT: I do understand. 24 THE COURT: And do you understand you could ask the

Court to issue subpoenas to compel witnesses to appear and

testify in your defense even if they did not otherwise wish to come to court?

THE DEFENDANT: I do understand.

THE COURT: Do you understand that if there were a trial in your case, you would not be required to testify against yourself?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I understand.

THE COURT: And do you understand if you chose not to testify that that fact could not be used against you?

THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

THE COURT: Do you also understand that if you went to trial and were convicted at the trial, you would still have the right to appeal that conviction to a higher court?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: Now do you understand that by entering a guilty plea here this morning, you will be giving up all of the rights that I just reviewed with you, including your right to a trial, you will not be able to withdraw your plea, and the only remaining step in this case will be the sentencing?

THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

THE COURT: And do you understand that the decision as to the appropriate sentence in your case will be entirely up to the sentencing judge, who in this case is Judge Kaplan, and he will be limited only by what the law requires?

THE DEFENDANT: I do understand.

THE COURT: Do you understand that even if you're
surprised or disappointed by your sentence, you're still going
to be bound by your guilty plea?
THE DEFENDANT: I do understand.
THE COURT: Now knowing everything that I just
reviewed with you, do you still wish to plead guilty to Counts
One and Two of the superseding information?
THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.
THE COURT: Has any force or have any threats been
used, either directly or indirectly, to influence how you plead
today?
THE DEFENDANT: No, they have not.
THE COURT: Now I have before me a letter that's dated
February 12, 2018 from the government to Ms. Baumgartel
containing your plea agreement. Have you read this letter?
THE DEFENDANT: I have.
THE COURT: Did you sign it on the last page?
THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did.
THE COURT: Before you signed it, did you discuss it
with Ms. Baumgartel?
THE DEFENDANT: I did.
THE COURT: Did she explain to you all of its terms
and conditions?
THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
THE COURT: Apart from what is contained in this

letter, have any promises been made to you in order to get you to plead guilty?

THE DEFENDANT: None.

THE COURT: Now in reviewing the agreement, I note that it contains an analysis of how part of our law of sentencing, which we call the sentencing guidelines, may impact on any prison term in your case. Based on that analysis on page 4, the agreement states the conclusion that the guidelines sentencing range can be expected to be from 292 to 365 months imprisonment. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Do you understand that Judge Kaplan is not bound by the calculation in the letter, he's going to be free to do his own calculation, which may result in a guideline range that is different from the one that's in the letter.

THE DEFENDANT: I understand that.

THE COURT: Do you understand that no matter what sentencing range Judge Kaplan believes is called for by the guidelines, that range is just one of many factors that he's going to consider in determining your sentence, and he has the discretion to give you a prison sentence below or above the range anywhere up to the maximum sentence of imprisonment that we spoke about before.

THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

THE COURT: All right. And do you understand as part

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of the plea agreement it says that you cannot -- let me find it
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      here. It doesn't say it.
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               Isn't there a provision in the agreement about a fine,
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      or not?
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               MS. LA MORTE: Beyond what's listed in the first page
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      regarding -- there is an applicable fine category here, your
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      Honor.
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               THE COURT: What's that?
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               MS. LA MORTE: There is an applicable fine range, I
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      just need to find it.
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               It's on page 4 under sentencing range, the last --
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               THE COURT: But is there nothing in the letter that
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      says if the fine is $500,000 or less that he cannot appeal
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      that?
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               MS. LA MORTE: The appeal waiver?
               THE COURT: Yes, I don't see it.
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               MS. BAUMGARTEL: I think the fine is not included in
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      the appeal waiver.
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THE COURT: It usually is.

MS. LA MORTE: It usually is.

THE COURT: But is isn't.

MS. LA MORTE: It is not.

THE COURT: Is there a reason that isn't or should be?

MS. LA MORTE: Let me confer with defense counsel.

THE COURT: Okay.

(Pause)

MS. LA MORTE: Your Honor, it should be there, and the defense agrees to it. It's an oversight. We could handwrite it in and have the parties initial it.

THE COURT: That's fine with me as long as it's clear for the record and to Judge Kaplan.

So Mr. McFadden, what I believe counsel are going to amend the agreement to include is that you're going to agree that you cannot appeal any fine of \$500,000 or less. Is that what you're going to agree to?

MS. BAUMGARTEL: Yes, your Honor.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

THE COURT: Do you also understand that you cannot appeal any lawful sentence of supervised release?

THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

THE COURT: Do you also understand that in the letter you're giving up your right to complain if the government withheld any evidence from your attorney that would have been helpful to you?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I understand.

THE COURT: All right. Now Mr. McFadden, is your plea voluntary, what I mean by that, is it made of your own free will?

THE DEFENDANT: It is voluntary and it is made of my own free will.

THE COURT: Did you in fact commit the offenses that are charged in Counts One and Two of the superseding information?

THE DEFENDANT: I did, your Honor.

THE COURT: Before I ask you to tell the Court what you did, I'm going to ask the government to summarize the elements of the offenses, and if it wishes to advise the Court what the evidence would have been had there been a trial in this case. Ms. La Morte.

MS. LA MORTE: Yes, your Honor. So the defendant is pleading guilty, as we know, to a two-count information.

Count One charges travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct in violation of 18, United States Code, Section 2423(b). That crime has two elements: The first is that the defendant traveled in interstate commerce, and second, that the defendant traveled for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct.

Illicit sexual conduct, in turn, is defined in 18, United States Code, Section 2423(f). It means a sexual act, a statutory sexual act definition, with a person under 18 years of age that would be in violation of Chapter 109(a) if that act occurred in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States. So those are the elements for travel

with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct.

Count Two charges receipt of child pornography in violation of 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(2) and (b)(1). That has four elements: The first is that the defendant knowingly received a visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct. That term is defined in 18, United States Code, Section 2256. Second is that that visual depiction involved the use of a minor. Third is that it was transported in interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including computer. And fourth, that the defendant knew that such material contained child pornography as defined by statute.

In addition to that, which we would have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt, the government would have to prove that venue exists within the jurisdiction of the Southern District of New York by a preponderance of the evidence.

Our proof there is that the victim at issue in this case resided in the Southern District of New York, and that the defendant traveled into the Southern District of New York for purposes of engaging illicit sexual conduct with the victim.

In addition, with respect to receipt of child pornography, we would prove that through the fact that the child pornography was exchanged while the victim was in New York and the defendant was outside the State of New York.

So beyond that, your Honor, the proof that we would introduce in this case, were we to go to trial, would be

testimony of the victim, the defendant's travel records, emails between the defendant and the victim, other emails that the defendant exchanged with other potential victims, testimony from law enforcement officers.

And just to further clarify one point, I mentioned additional emails, it would be emails with other minors with whom the defendant communicated for the purposes of enticing sexual activity.

And unless your Honor has any questions, those are the elements of the proof that we would introduce.

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. La Morte.

Mr. McFadden, at this time could you please tell the Court in your own words what you did that makes you guilty of the charges against you. And if you're going to read something, which is perfectly fine, just speak slowly for purposes of the court reporter.

THE DEFENDANT: Sure. In January 2017 and April 2017 I traveled from Kentucky to Manhattan, New York, for the purpose of meeting and having a sexual encounter with someone who was under 18. Around that time, with the same person who was under 18, I engaged in online chats. During one of those chats, he transmitted images of himself engaged in sexual activity. I knew that these actions were wrong, and I am very, very sorry.

THE COURT: Ms. La Morte, are there follow-up

1 questions that you want me to ask to that allocution? 2 MS. LA MORTE: No, your Honor, and I think that's 3 sufficient. 4 THE COURT: Ms. Baumgartel, anything that you want me 5 to ask to follow up? MS. BAUMGARTEL: No, your Honor. And to be clear, 6 7 while Mr. McFadden was engaging in the chats, he was in Kentucky, and it's our understanding that the other individual 8 9 was in the Southern District of New York. 10 THE COURT: Is that correct, Mr. McFadden? 11 THE DEFENDANT: That is correct, to my understanding. THE COURT: All right. Does the government represent 12 13 it has sufficient evidence to establish Mr. McFadden's quilt 14 beyond a reasonable doubt? 15 MS. LA MORTE: Yes, your Honor. 16 THE COURT: Ms. Baumgartel, do you know of a defense 17 that would prevail at trial or any other reason why 18 Mr. McFadden should not be permitted to plead guilty at this time? 19 20 MS. BAUMGARTEL: No. 21 THE COURT: Are there any further questions either 22 counsel wishes the Court to ask before we conclude the 23 proceedings? 24 MS. LA MORTE: No other questions, your Honor, just 25

noting for the record that I am going to insert a sentence into

the plea agreement which is before the Court to make clear that the defendant will not appeal any fine that's at or above \$500,000, and counsel and the defendant will sign that additional sentence.

THE COURT: All right. Anything else?

MS. BAUMGARTEL: No, your Honor, just to add that's correct.

THE COURT: All right. On the basis of Mr. McFadden's responses to my questions and my observation of his demeanor, I do find that he is fully competent to enter an informed plea at this time. I also conclude that he understands the nature of the charges and the consequences of his plea. And finally, I'm satisfied that his plea is voluntary and that there's a factual basis for it. Accordingly, I recommend that the proffered plea to Counts One and Two of the superseding information be accepted.

And I assume the government will order a copy of the transcript of this proceeding and will submit it to Judge Kaplan together with any other paperwork he may need so that he can act on this recommendation.

MS. LA MORTE: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Has he scheduled a sentencing date?

MS. LA MORTE: No, your Honor, not yet.

THE COURT: We'll set a control date of June 22nd, which is 120 days out. I assume you all will be in touch with

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his chambers to schedule something in the interim. 1 2 In any event, the prosecution case summary for 3 purposes of the presentence report should be delivered to 4 probation in the next 14 days. 5 And Ms. Baumgartel, you should make yourself available 6 with Mr. McFadden within the next 14 days if you can, but I 7 know he lives out of state, so whenever you can do so as expeditiously as possible that's convenient to both of you. 8 9 MS. BAUMGARTEL: Yes, your Honor. 10 THE COURT: Is there anything further from the 11 government? 12 MS. LA MORTE: No, your Honor. 13 THE COURT: Ms. Baumgartel? 14 MS. BAUMGARTEL: No, thank you. 15 THE COURT: Have a good day, Mr. McFadden. 16 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you very much, your Honor. 17 MS. LA MORTE: Thank you, your Honor. 000 18 19 20 21 22 23 24